who make available developed industrial plots, sheds, etc.

(5) Central Government is also concerned with the provision of finance through finan cial institutions to the sick industrial units in their rehabilitation programmes. The steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive the sick units to take care of the financial problems are as under:—

(i) Inssuance of detailed guidelines by RBI to all scheduled commercial banks m regard to rehabilitation of sick units.

(ii) Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 1,50,000 to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one percent per annum is also available to potentially viable sick SSI units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987.

(iii) At the instance of the Central Government, the RBI had constituted a Committee underthe Chairmanship of Ex-Deputy Governor, Shri P. R. Nayak, which submitted its report in September. 1922. The Committee looked into the problems of credit, sickness and other relevant aspects. The Committee has made several recommendations for the revival of sick units which include a modified definition of sick SSI units, creation of separate cells by banks, setting up of State Level Tribunals, use of DICs as a forum for redressal of grievances, revitalisation of State Level. Inter-Institutional Committees, etc. The RBI has already announced its decision on some of its recommendations such as modified definition of sick units and reduced rate of interest to be charged on the rehabilitation of sick units.

(iv) RBI has decided that SSI sector would be getting upto 20% of their annual output by way of working capital loan.

(v) SSI forms part of the priority sector lending programme of the banks.

(6) The Government has recently decided to conduct a Diagnostic Survey of sick SSI units in the country.

(7) State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) exist in all States to provide a useful forum for exchange of information and discussion on problems faced by SSI units.

Indian Nuclear Programme

445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRl IQBAL SINGH:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian nuclear programme is passing through a difficult phase due to the embargo after the Gulf War; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a)and(b) No, Sir. There is no specific embargo on Indian nuclear programme after the Gulf War.

Meghalaya and Shillong Visit of The Chairman, AEC

446. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, accompanied by a team of his officers, visited Shillong and Meghalaya in June and held discussions with the State Government;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit; and

(c) whether he made a commitment that if the people were opposed to ihe mining of uranium in the State where a rich find has been made, mining would not be undertaken there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission accompanied by a team of experts from the Department of Atomic Energy visited Meghalaya in the month of June 1993 and held discussions with the State Government and the Members of the Khasi Hills District Council.

(b) The purpose of the visit was to explain salient features of the mining project including the environmental safety of the operation and the benefits that would accrue to the State from the project.

(c) It was decided that a team of local representatives and Officials of the State Government would visit the working uranium mine at Jaduguda in Bihar to convince themselves of the complete safety and benignness of the operation. The mining project at Domiasiat will be taken up only after necessary clearances from the concerned authorities including the